

**SPIDERS (ARACHNIDA, ARANEAE) COLLECTED BY BIRDLIFE GEF  
ISLAND ASSESSMENT PROJECT 1999-2000**

BY

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**ABSTRACT**

During the BirdLife GEF Island Assessment project 1999-2000 a total of 2,725 spider specimens were collected. Of these, 887 were adult specimens and 1,838 juveniles. The great majority of specimens (98%) could be determined down to species level. In all, the collection included 68 species belonging to 23 families. Five species new to science were collected.

**METHODS**

Spiders were collected by a variety of methods, including pitfall trapping, sweeping and beating, and were occasionally taken in Malaise traps (see Hill, this volume, for more details), on the ten islands described in the above reports, and also on Aride (pitfall trapping only) in 2000. Specimens collected were sorted and stored in 70% ethanol for later identification.

**RESULTS**

Overall, a total of 2,725 specimens were sorted for identification. Of these, 887 were adult and 1,838 juvenile; 98% of specimens could be determined to species. Sixty-eight species were represented in the collection, belonging to 23 families; at present, a total of 191 spider species (in 39 families) are known on the granitic Seychelles, with further species from the coralline islands (the latter mainly from families Araneidae, Oonopidae, Tetragnathidae and Theridiidae; Roberts 1983, Saaristo 2001b). A summary table showing representation of different spider families in this material is shown below (Table 1). Five previously undescribed taxa were identified, and these will be described at a later date. A checklist of taxa recovered, with their distribution outside the Seychelles, and known distribution within Seychelles, is given below.

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Table 1. Summary of spider specimens collected.

	Family	No. of species	
		This material	Seychelles
01	Araneidae	6	17
02	Clubionidae	2	3
03	Corinnidae	2	3
04	Cryptothelidae	1	1
05	Gnaphosidae	2	5
06	Linyphiidae	4	4
07	Liocranidae	1	1
08	Lycosidae	2	2
09	Miturgidae	1	1
10	Ochyroceratidae	2	6
11	Oonopidae	7	32
12	Oxyopidae	1	2
13	Pholcidae	2	9
14	Salticidae	10	25
15	Scytodidae	1	6
16	Selenopidae	1	1
17	Sparassidae	2	7
18	Symphytognatidae	1	2
19	Tetragnathidae	5	11
20	Theridiidae	11	24
21	Theridiosomatidae	1	3
22	Thomisidae	2	2
23	Uloboridae	1	2
	TOTAL	68	169

### CHECKLIST

Abbreviations of island names (islands in **bold** were visited in the course of this project, islands with asterisk are coralline):

Aldabra*	Ald	Frégate	FR
Anonyme	AO	<b>Grande Soeur</b>	<b>GS</b>
<b>Aride</b>	<b>AR</b>	La Digue	LD
Assumption*	Asn	Long Island	LO
Astove*	Ast	Mahé	MH
<b>Bird</b>	<b>BI</b>	<b>Marianne</b>	<b>MA</b>
Cerfs	CF	<b>North</b>	<b>NO</b>
Coetivy*	Coe	Petite Soeur	PS
<b>Conception</b>	<b>CC</b>	Poivre*	Pov
<b>Cousin</b>	<b>CS</b>	<b>Praslin</b>	<b>PR</b>
Cousine	CE	Providence*	Prd
<b>Curieuse</b>	<b>CR</b>	St Pierre	SP
<b>Denis</b>	<b>DE</b>	St Joseph*	StJ
Desroches*	Dsr	Silhouette	SI
Farquhar*	Faq	<b>Thérèse</b>	<b>TE</b>
<b>Félicité</b>	<b>FE</b>	Île aux Vaches	VA

DI = Global distribution according to Platnick (2000)  
 OR = Old records from Seychelles  
 BLS = New records (this collection)

(f) = female specimens, (j) = juvenile specimens, (m) = male specimens.

## SUBORDER ARANEOMORPHA (true spiders)

### 01 Family ARANEIDAE Simon, 1895 - orbweb weavers

#### **Cyrtophora** Simon, 1864

*C. citricola* (Forskol, 1775)

DI: Old World

OR: Ald, AR, CF, CR, LD, PR, SI (Simon 1898; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Grasshoff 1980; Roberts 1983; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, FE, MA, NO

#### **Larinia** Simon, 1874

*L. bifida* Tullgren, 1910

DI: Central, Eastern and Southern Africa

OR: AR, CE, MH, SI (Grasshoff 1980; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: BI, CC, CS, DE, FE, MA

#### **Neoscona** Simon, 1864

*N. morelii* (Vinson, 1863)

DI: Cuba to Argentina, Africa to Seychelles

OR: SP (Grasshoff 1980)

BLS: BI

*N. subfusca* (C. L. Koch, 1837)

DI: Old World

OR: CR, MH, PR, SI (Grasshoff 1980; Saaristo 1999)

BL: CS

#### **Prasonica** Simon, 1895

*P. seriata* (Simon, 1895)

DI: Africa, Madagascar

OR: MH, PR, SI (Grasshoff 1980; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

#### **Thelacantha** Hasselt, 1882

*T. brevispina* (Doleschall, 1875)

DI: Madagascar, India to Philippines, Australia

OR: MH (Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC

### 02 Family CLUBIONIDAE Wagner, 1887 - sac spiders

#### **Clubiona** Latreille, 1804

*C. n. sp.*

DI: Endemic(?)

OR: CE, SI (Saaristo 1999, as *Clubiona sp. ign.*)

BLS: BI, CC, CS, DE, FE, MA, NO

#### "Clubiona"

"*C.*" *nigrimaculosa* Blackwall, 1877

DI: Endemic

OR: AO, AR, CS, MH, SI (Simon 1893; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1995)

BLS: CS

**03 Family CORINNIDAE** Karsch, 1880 - dark sac spiders**Oedignatha** Thorell, 1881*O. mogamoga* Marples, 1955

DI: Malaysia, Seychelles, Borneo, Samoa

OR: AR, CE, PR, MH, SI (Saaristo 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, all as *O. scrobiculata*).

BLS: AR, BI, CS, CR, DE, MA, NO, TE

**Corinna** C. L. Koch, 1842*C. gulosa* (Thorell, 1878)

DI: Myanmar

OR: CE, SI (Saaristo 1999, as Corinnidae *Genus ign. 2., sp. ign.*)

BLS: AR, CS

**04 Family CRYPTOTHELIDAE** L. Koch, 1872 - litter spiders**Cryptothele** L. Koch, 1872*C. alluaudi* Simon, 1893

DI: Endemic

OR: CE, FR, LD, MH, PR, SI (Simon 1893; Simon 1898; Hirst 1911; Benoit 1978d; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC

**05 Family GNAPHOSIDAE** Banks, 1882 - flat-bellied ground spiders**Camillina** Berland, 1919*C. cordifera* (Tullgren, 1910)

DI: Central and Southern Africa, Seychelles

OR: AR, CE, CR, MH, PR, SI (Saaristo 1978; Platnick 1981; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: AR, BI, CR, CS, CR, DE, MA

**Xerophaeus** Purcell, 1907*X. espoir* Platnick, 1981

DI: Endemic

OR: CE, MH (Platnick 1981; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS

**06 Family LINYPHIIDAE** Blackwall, 1859 - dwarf or money spiders**Microbathyphantes** van Helsdingen, 1988*M. palmarius* (Marples, 1955)

DI: Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Myanmar, Polynesia

OR: CS, MH, SI (van Helsdingen 1988, as *M. asiaticus*; Saaristo 1995; Saaristo 1999, as *M. spedani*)

BLS: DE

**Neonesiotes** Millidge, 1991*N. remiformis* Millidge, 1991

DI: Marshall Is., Caroline Is., Cook Is., Fiji, Samoa

OR: CE, MH, SI (Saaristo 1999)

BLS: DE, MA, NO

**Nesioneta** Millidge, 1991*N. benoiti* (van Helsdingen, 1978)

DI: Sri Lanka, Seychelles

OR: AR, CS, CE, LD, MH, PS, PR, SI (van Helsdingen 1978, as *Meioneta b.*; Saaristo 1995; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: AR, BI

**Tohea** Saaristo, 1995*T. tricaudata* (Lockett, 1982)

DI: Seychelles, Malaysia

OR: CE, MH, SI (Saaristo 1995; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CR, MA

**07 Family LIOCRANIDAE** Simon, 1897**Othobula** Simon, 1897*O. impressa* Simon, 1896

DI: Sri Lanka

OR: AR, CE, MH, SI (Bowler *et al.* 1999, as Corinnidae: *Genus ign. 1. sp. 1.*; Saaristo 1999, as Corinnidae: *Genus ign. 1. sp. ign.*)

BLS: CS (j)

**08 Family LYCOSIDAE** Sundevall, 1833 - wolf spiders**Bristowiella** Saaristo, 1980*B. seychellensis* (Bristowe, 1973)

DI: Seychelles, Comoro Is.

OR: AR, CE, LD, PR, MH, SI (Bristowe 1973; Saaristo 1978; Alderweilert 1988; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS, NO

**Trochosa** C. L. Koch, 1848*T. urbana* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1878) CS, DE

DI: Africa to India

OR: AR, Ast, CF, CE, FE, MH, PR, SI, SP (Simon 1898; Hirst 1911, as *Lycosa urbana*; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS, DE

**09 Family MITURGIDAE** Lehtinen, 1967 - forest-floor spiders**Palicanus** Thorell, 1897*P. caudatus* Thorell, 1897

DI: China, Myanmar, Indonesia

OR: SI (Saaristo 1999, as Miturgidae: *Gen. sp. ign.*)

BLS: DE

**10 Family OCHYRO CERATIDAE** Fage, 1912 - midget ground weavers**Roche** Saaristo, 1998*R. roche* Saaristo, 1998

DI: Endemic

OR: MH (Saaristo 1998)

BLS: CS

**Theotima** Simon, 1893*T. minutissima* (Petrunkevitch, 1929)

DI: Pantropical

OR: CE, MH, SI (Brignoli 1980, as *Speocera bonaspei*; Saaristo 1998, 1999)

BLS: AR

**11 Family OONOPIDAE** Simon, 1890 - dwarf hunting spiders

**Brignolia** Dumitresco & Georgesco, 1983

*B. cubana* Dumitresco & Georgesco, 1983

DI: Cuba

OR: AR, CE, MH, Pov, SI (Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, 2001b)

BLS: BI

**Ischnothyreus** Simon, 1892

*I. peltifer* (Simon, 1891)

DI: USA to Panama, West Indies, St. Helena

OR: AR, CS, CE, MH, NO, SI (Benoit 1979, as *Ischnothyreus sechellorum*, Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, 2001b)

BLS: DE, NO

*I. sp. (j)*

BLS: BI, CR

**Lionneta** Benoit, 1979

*L. sp. (j)*

BLS: MA

*Lionneta n. sp.*

DI: Endemic

OR: None

BLS: CC(f), CR(m), GS(m)

**Lisna** Saaristo, 2001

*L. trichinalis* (Benoit, 1979)

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, CE, MH, PS, SI (Benoit 1979, as *Gamasomorpha trichinalis*, Bowler *et al.* 1999 and Saaristo 1999, as "*Gamasomorpha trichinalis*"; Saaristo 2001b)

BLS: DE

**Opopaea** Simon, 1891

*O. deserticola* Simon, 1891

DI: USA, West Indies

OR: Asn, CS, CE, Faq, Pov (Saaristo 2001b)

BLS: BI

*O. lena* Suman, 1965

DI: Hawaii

OR: AR, CE, MH, PS, PR, SI (Benoit 1979, as *Gamasomorpha ladigui*; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, as "*Gamasomorpha ladigui*"; Saaristo 2001b)

BLS: BI

**Orchestina** Simon, 1882

*O. justini* Saaristo, 2001

DI: Endemic

OR: SI (Saaristo 1999, as *Orchestina sp. ign.*; Saaristo 2001b)

BLS: CC, CS, NO

- 12 Family OXYOPIDAE** Thorell, 1878 - lynx spiders  
**Oxyopes** Latreillei, 1804  
*O. dumontii* (Vinson, 1863)  
 DI: Africa, Madagascar to Seychelles  
 OR: AR, MH, PR, SI (Benoit 1978b; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)  
 BLS: BI, FE, MA
- 13 Family PHOLCIDAE** C. L. Koch, 1851 - daddy-long-legs spiders  
**Cenemus** Saaristo, 2001  
*C. n. sp.*  
 DI: Endemic  
 OR: None  
 BLS: MA  
**Modissimus** Simon, 1893  
*M. culicinus* (Simon, 1893)  
 DI: North, South America, Congo, Hawaii, Marshal Is.  
 OR: AR, CS, CE, CR, GS, MH, PS, PR, SI (Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999, as *Hedypsilus culicinus*; Saaristo 2001a)  
 BLS: NO
- 14 Family SALTICIDAE** Blackwall, 1841 - jumping spiders  
**Baviola** Simon, 1898  
*B. spatulata* Wanless, 1984  
 DI: Endemic  
 OR: MH, SI (Wanless 1984; Saaristo 1999)  
 BLS: CR, FE
- 15 Family SCYTODIDAE** Blackwall, 1864 - spitting spiders  
**Soeuria** Saaristo, 1997  
*S. soeur* Saaristo, 1997  
 DI: Endemic  
 OR: CE, PS, SI (Saaristo 1997, 1999)  
 BLS: BI, CC, DE, MA, NO
- 16 Family SELENOPIDAE** Simon, 1897 - flatters or wall spiders  
**Selenops** Dufour, 1817  
*S. secretus* Hirst, 1911  
 DI: Endemic  
 OR: AR, CE, FR, LO, MH, PR, SI (Simon 1898, as *S. radiata*; Hirst 1911; Benoit 1978d; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)  
 BLS: CR, DE, MA, NO
- 17 Family SPARASSIDAE** Simon, 1874 (= Heteropodidae Thorell, 1874) - giant crab spiders  
**Heteropoda** Latreillei, 1804  
*H. venatoria* (Linnaeus, 1758)  
 DI: Pantropical  
 OR: BI, CE, Dsr, MH, Pov, PR, SI (Simon 1898, as *H. regia*; Hirst 1911, as *H. regia*; Benoit 1978c; Saaristo 1999)  
 BLS: BI, CC, MA, NO

**Rhacocnemis** Simon, 1898*R. guttata* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: CF, CR, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Sparassus guttata*; Simon 1898; Hirst 1911, as *S. guttatus* & *S. elegans*; Benoit 1978c)

BLS: CC, CR, FE, MA, NO

**18 Family SYMPHYTOGNATHIDAE** Hickman, 1931 - dwarf orb-weavers**Anapistula** Gertsch, 1941*A. seychellensis* Saaristo, 1996

DI: Endemic

OR: SI (Saaristo 1996)

BLS: CR

**19 Family TETRAGNATHIDAE** Menge, 1866 - long-jawed orbweavers and golden orbweb and silver marsh spider**Leucauge** Darwin in White, 1839*L. argyrescens* Benoit, 1978

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, PR, SI (Benoit 1978b; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

**Nephila** Leach, 1815*N. inaurata* (Walckenaer, 1841) [palm spider]

DI: South Africa to Seychelles

OR: Ald, AR, Coe, CE, CR, FR, LD, MH, Pov, PR, SI, StJ (Blackwall 1877, as *N. inaurata* and *N. plumipes*; Simon 1893, as *N. madagascariensis*; Simon 1898, as *N. madagascariensis*; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Benoit 1978b as *N. inaurata* ssp. *Madagascariensis*; Roberts 1983; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)*B. vanmoli* Wanless, 1894

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, SI (Wanless 1984; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, FE

**Cosmophasis** Simon, 1901*Cosmophasis n. sp.*

DI: Endemic(?)

OR: None

BLS: BI

**Epocilla** Thorell, 1887*Epocilla n. sp.*

DI: Endemic(?)

OR: None

BLS: CC

**Goleba** Wanless, 1890*G. pallens* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: Ald, DE, MH, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Lyssomanes pallens*; Hirst 1911, Wanless 1980, 1984, all as *Asamonea pallens*; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO



**Hasarius** Simon, 1871*H. adamsonii* (Audouin, 1826)

DI: Cosmopolitan

OR: CE, CR, MH, PR, SI (Saaristo 1978, as *H. albocircumdatus*;  
Wanless 1984; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS, CR, DE, FE, TE

**Heliophanus** C. L. Koch, 1833*H. activus* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, CR, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Salticus a.*; Simon  
1893; Saaristo 1978; Wanless 1984; Bowler *et al.* 1999;  
Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, GS, MA, NO

**Hyllus** C. L. Koch, 1846*H. acutus* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, DE, CF, CE, MH, PR, Prd, SI (Blackwall 1877, as  
*Salticus a.*; Saaristo 1978, as "*Salticus*" *a.*; Wanless 1984;  
Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: BI, CC, DE, FE, MA

**Myrmarachne** MacLeay, 1838*M. constricta* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: AR, DE, LO, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Salticus a.*;  
Wanless 1984; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Bowler *et al.* 1999;  
Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

**Plexippus** C. L. Koch, 1846*P. paykullii* (Audouin, 1826)

DI: Cosmopolitan

OR: BI, Coe, CE, LD, VA, MH, PR, SI (Simon 1898; Hirst  
1911; Wanless 1984; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: FE, MA

**Tetragnatha** Latreillei, 1804*T. demissa* L. Koch, 1872

DI: South Africa, Australia to Tonga

OR: Ald (Roberts 1983, as *T. grenda*)

BLS: CC

*T. mandibulata* Walckenaer, 1842

DI: West Africa, Bangladesh to Philippines, Australia

OR: Coe, LD, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *T. minax*; Simon  
1893, as *T. minax*; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Benoit 1978a;  
Saaristo 1999)

BLS: NO

*T. marginata* (Thorell, 1890)

DI: Myanmar to New Caledonia

OR: MH, SI (Saaristo 1978, 1999)

BLS: CS

*Tetragnatha* sp. (j)

BLS: DE, FE

**20 Family THERIDIIDAE** Sundevall, 1833 - cobweb spiders**Achearanea** Strand, 1929*A. labarda* Roberts, 1983

DI: Endemic

OR: Ald, AR (Roberts 1983; Bowler *et al.* 1999)

BLS: CS, DE, MA

**Argyrodes** Simon, 1864*A. argyrodes* (Walckenaer, 1837)

DI: Mediterranean to West Africa, Seychelles

OR: Ald, MH (Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1983; Saaristo 1999, 2000)

BLS: FE, TE

*A. cognatus* (Blackwall, 1877)

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Epeira cognatus*; Simon 1898; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Saaristo 1999, 2000)

BLS: CC, FE, NO

*A. recurvatus* Saaristo, 1978

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, SI (Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Saaristo 2000)

BLS: DE, MA

*A. rostratus* Blackwall, 1877

DI: Endemic

OR: MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Epeira rostratus*; Simon 1893; Hirst 1911; Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Saaristo 1999, 2000)

BLS: CC, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

**Coleosoma** O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882*C. adamsoni* (Berland, 1935)

DI: Pantropical

OR: CE, MH, SI (Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978, as *Theridion a.*; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: DE, MA, NO

*C. blandum* O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1882

DI: Cosmopolitan

OR: AR, MH, SI (Saaristo 1978, as *Cryso acrobeles*; Roberts 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CS, DE, FE, MA, NO

*C. floridana* (Banks, 1900)

DI: Pantropical, greenhouses in Europe

OR: AR, CE, LD, MH, PR, SI (Saaristo 1978; Roberts 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)

BLS: CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, MA, NO

**Dipoena** Thorell, 1869*D. menustya* Roberts, 1983DI: Endemic  
OR: Ald (Roberts 1983)  
BLS: MA*D. spundana* Roberts, 1978DI: Endemic  
OR: AR, LD, SI (Roberts 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)  
BLS: DE, NO**Theridion** Walckenaer, 1805*T. clabnum* Roberts, 1978DI: Endemic  
OR: AR, CE, LD, MH, PR, SI (Roberts 1978; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)  
BLS: CC, CR, DE, NO**21 Family THERIDIOSOMATIDAE** Simon, 1881 - ray spiders

Theridiosomatidae sp.

BLS: GS(j.)

**Andasta** Simon, 1895*A. benoiti* (Roberts, 1978)DI: Endemic  
OR: MH (Roberts 1978)  
BLS: CC, DE, FE, MA, NO**22 Family THOMISIDAE** Sundevall, 1833 - crab spiders**Firmicus** Simon, 1895*F. insularis* (Blackwall, 1877)DI: Endemic  
OR: MH, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *Thomisus insularis*; Simon 1898, as *F. marginatus*; Hirst 1911; Benoit 1978e)  
BLS: DE**Thomisus** Walckenaer, 1805*T. stenningi* Pocock, 1900DI: Africa  
OR: AR, CR, MH, PR, SI (Simon 1898 and Benoit 1978e, as *Thomisus citrinellus*; Bowler *et al.* 1999, Saaristo 1999)  
BLS: DE, FE, NO**23 Family ULOBORIDAE** Thorell, 1869 (3; 20-252) - hackled-orbweb weavers**Uloborus** Latreille, 1806*U. plumipes* Lucas, 1846DI: Old World  
OR: AR, CR, MH, PR, SI (Blackwall 1877, as *U. luteola*; Saaristo 1978, as *Uloborus sp. I.*; Benoit 1978b; Gerlach *et al.* 1997; Bowler *et al.* 1999; Saaristo 1999)  
BLS: BI, CC, CS, CR, DE, FE, GS, MA